

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on November 2, 2005, claims 1-8 are pending in this application and claims 9-13 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claim 1 has been amended, and claims 5 and 9 to 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 14 has been newly added. No new matter has been added to the claims.

The Office Action rejected claims 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0117071 ("*Lee*") and U.S. Patent No. 6,198,217 ("*Suzuki*"). The Patent Office primarily relies on *Lee* and further relies on *Suzuki* to remedy the deficiencies of *Lee*.

Of claims 1 to 3 and 6 to 8, amended claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Amended claim 1 recites a display unit. The display unit includes a drive panel including a plurality of light emitting devices on a drive substrate with a drive device layer and a coating layer being laid over the drive device layer in between; a sealing panel including a sealing substrate that faces the drive panel on a side where the light emitting devices are disposed; and a middle layer being disposed between the drive panel and the sealing panel so as to be laid over the plurality of light emitting devices, and being laid over a surface and end of the coating layer, wherein the middle layer includes an adhesive layer for bonding the whole surfaces of the drive panel and the sealing panel together.

Applicants respectfully submit that the *Lee* and *Suzuki* references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a display unit as claimed in amended claim 1. At the outset, the primary *Lee* reference fails to disclose (1) a sealing panel and (2) a middle layer being disposed between the drive panel and the sealing panel so as to be laid over the plurality of light emitting devices, and being laid over a surface and end of the coating layer, wherein the middle layer includes an adhesive layer for bonding the whole surfaces of the drive panel and the sealing panel together. For at least these reasons, *Lee* is clearly deficient with respect to the claimed invention.

The Office Action relies on *Suzuki* to remedy the deficiencies of *Lee*. However, *Suzuki* does not disclose a middle layer being disposed between the drive panel and the sealing panel so as to be laid over the plurality of light emitting devices, and being laid over a surface and end of the coating

layer, wherein the middle layer includes an adhesive layer for bonding the whole surfaces of the drive panel and the sealing panel together. Thus, the display unit resulting from the combination of *Lee* and *Suzuki* would not include every element of the claimed invention. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is patentably distinguished over *Lee* and *Suzuki*.

Moreover, on page 4 of the Office Action, the Office Action stated that claims 4 and 5, as originally filed, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 5. As even admitted by the Office Action, the prior art of record does not disclose the claimed invention including a middle layer as recited in 5. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the subject matter of amended claim 1 be indicated as allowable.

Claims 2, 3, and 6 to 8 depend directly and indirectly from amended claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 are distinguished over *Lee* and *Suzuki* for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to amended claim 1 and for the additional features recited in these claims.

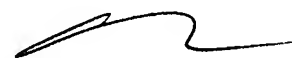
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection with respect to claims 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 be withdrawn.

As discussed above, the Office Action stated that claims 4 and 5, as originally filed, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. New claim 14 recites the limitation of claim 4 in independent form. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the subject matter of new claim 14 be indicated as allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

BY


Thomas C. Basso (46,541)
Cust. No. 29175

Dated: December 23, 2005